

COUNTRY

Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

Altenburg Airfield

25X1

DATE PREPARED 7 May 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

25X1

1. [redacted] 72 hectares of woods were to be cleared in the area bordering on Altenburg airfield.
2. Between 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 8 March, four transport aircraft practiced flying at the field. Maintenance work was being done on eight other transports. On 10 March, 12 transports were observed at the installation. The radio installation located outside the field was being dismantled. The road block at the northern gate of the field was being removed. The cutting of trees was begun. At 8:20 a.m. on 15 March, one transport plane took off; another one was observed landing at 10:30 a.m. Ten transport aircraft were observed. The cutting of trees continued, and work on the construction of low wooden buildings was started. On 20 March, 17 transport aircraft were parked in the landing field for maintenance work. One or two biplanes were parked in an open hangar. All the other hangars were empty. At 9:40 a.m., a transport plane and a biplane took off. The transport plane landed at 11 a.m. At 11:30 a.m., a single-engine plane landed and again took off after a short time. Work on the construction of a second low wooden building was begun. A drainage ditch was being dug. The road block and the guard at the main entrance of the field were moved 100 meters closer to the field. The northern section of the field was blocked by barbed-wire fences.
3. On 24 March, 13 transport aircraft covered with tarpaulins were observed at the field. The structures of two low wooden buildings were completed. Gravel was trucked to the runway. The northern section of the field was extended, and a barbed-wire fence 2 meters high was erected along the new boundary. A temporary target range was being constructed in a sand pit south of the field. From 7 to 11:30 p.m. on 28 March, night flying by one transport plane was observed from the town. On 1 April, 14 transports were observed east of the runway. Two of them were stuck in the soggy soil. The landing gear of one of these planes was damaged.
4. Construction work on the field continued on 5 April. A temporary storage building was completed. The pile of sand near the runway had been enlarged to a height of about 2.5 meters and a length of 30 meters. The trucks observed at the field [redacted] The clearing of the wooded area was discontinued. Cement pipes 15 cm in diameter were seen by the side of a drainage ditch. New fences were being erected along the northern boundary of the installation. Maintenance work was being done on 27 transports.

25X1

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY
SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY
SECURITY INFORMATION

2

25X1

parked at the field. Two MiG-15s were also seen there. Target practice was held at the temporary target range. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the billets at the field were almost occupied to capacity and that the soldiers observed there wore black-bordered blue, red-bordered black and black-bordered crimson epaulets. * Only few of the personnel were engaged in flying activity or maintenance work and the majority of them were mostly being instructed in the buildings of the installations. Chief Engineer Hamner (fnu) was in charge of construction work at the field.

5. Between 7:30 and 11 p.m. on 7 April, there was night flying by one transport plane. On 8 April, 25 transports were parked east of the runway at the edge of the woods. At 1:20 p.m. one plane took off while a biplane was circling the field. The jet fighters observed at the field on 5 April were no longer seen. Between 6:30 and 10 p.m. there was night flying by one transport plane. A biplane circled over the field from 10:30 a.m. to noon on 9 April. At 10:20 a transport plane took off and landed again after 15 minutes.

7. On 5 April, 27 Li-2s were observed parked in two groups at the field. There was no flying. In the northern section of the installation the woods had been cleared as far as the target range. Extensive excavation work was being done in the northern extension of the runway. Drainage pipes and two newly constructed temporary buildings were observed. Excavation work was also noticed in the southeastern corner of the installation. The construction work at the field was done by the Bauunion firm in Leipzig. [REDACTED] the runway was to be extended as far as the target range. Another target range was observed in a sand pit southeast of the installation. The RAD cantonment southeast of the installation was empty, and the windows were broken. **

- * [REDACTED] Comment. The red-bordered black and black-bordered crimson epaulets were probably worn by soldiers of an airborne or parachute unit of the Soviet Army. Such soldiers were repeatedly observed at the field last year. The unit involved has not been identified.
- ** [REDACTED] Comment. The report confirms that Altenburg airfield is still occupied by a transport regiment equipped with Li-2 aircraft.

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY
SECURITY INFORMATION